SANTA ANA COLLEGE

el Don

Volume 76, Issue 6 | 17th at Bristol Street, Santa Ana, California 92706 | Monday, May 10, 1999

on friDAY

The Spring Fling dance will be held from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in U-201A. Admission is $2. For more information contact student activities at 564-6210.



INSIDE:

People will do anything to be the first to see *The Phantom Menace*. Read one fan's story.

Style, Page 6

Motives for celebration unclear



Cinco de Mayo is more than just tacos and tequila. To discover its significance, please see VIEWS, page 7.

Senate ousts SCC student president

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: Luis Pena is impeached amid allegations of abusing his presidential authority.

By Christie Menzel
el Don Staff Writer

Santiago Canyon College's senate impeached their first Associated Student Body president for the second time Wednesday with a 6 -1 vote and one abstention.



Luis Pena

President Luis Pena was accused of abusing his presidential powers by assuming the role of InterClub Council President. The president must receive senate approval to hold dual offices, and he did not.

The political fire began when Pena cited the Students of Diverse Culture Club with various violations and declared the club inactive, a motion only the ICC president may pass.

He gave the club no previous warnings and sent four memos describing their violations, along with the memo declaring them inactive.

All violations cited by Pena over a five-month span have been disproved.

The first strike against SDC concerned Senator Ricardo Lopez, who abstained from voting because he didn't want it to appear a personal issue. He was accused of acting rudely to students and selling items that were not for sale at an ASB-sponsored Halloween Carnival.

However, Lopez denies the charges and says that although he was helping the SDC, he was not officially a

Please see PENA, Page 3

Flare for fashion

AWARDS: Santa Ana College's fashion design and merchandising department wins eight ribbons and $1,000 at state symposium.

By Dawnielle Peck
el Don Feature Editor

Move over Versace, here comes Santa Ana College's fashion department.

Six students won eight ribbons and cumulated $1,000 in award money at the California Community College Fashion Symposium held on April 24.

Competing with 26-30 other community colleges, SAC won the most first and second place ribbons and money. Even more impressive than the number of awards won is the fact that professionals from the fashion industry judged the entries.

In the coordinated sportswear section, Hoang Trong Nam received an honorable mention. Jessica Tran won two second place ribbons in the swim wear/ active wear and the business wear categories. SAC took the top two awards in the merchandising and quality section; Ayla Baka won first place and Souphapone Vilayvanh took second place.

Valerie Bart won a first place ribbon for creating an entire business plan for the merchandising and buying category. Bart also took first place in apparel selection while Thu Huong Nguyen won the second place ribbon for the same category.



CLOTHESLINE

Included in the 16 classes offered by the department are knit sewing, custom tailoring, computer fashion illustration and cooperative work experience.

Classes are held in room T-201 where students use industry standard equipment such as sewing machines and computers.

Former students of the program are currently employed with Bugle Boy, Billabong and Oakley.

Office move generates debate

PART 1 IN A SERIES: Benefits of separate district office causes controversy at SAC.

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Editor in Chief-

When the Board of Trustees decided two years ago to create a district headquarters, they never imagined they would be called liars and accused of playing hide and seek with students - hiding some say, from the students and staff who seek them.

The controversy began in October 1998, when the majority of district administrative departments moved from Santa Ana College to a $4.3 million office building in Santa Ana, in an effort to create more classroom space at SAC and provide a place for district functions, such as board meetings, to be conducted at an independent sight.

Although the notion of a district headquarters surfaced in the mid-80s, after the creation of the Orange

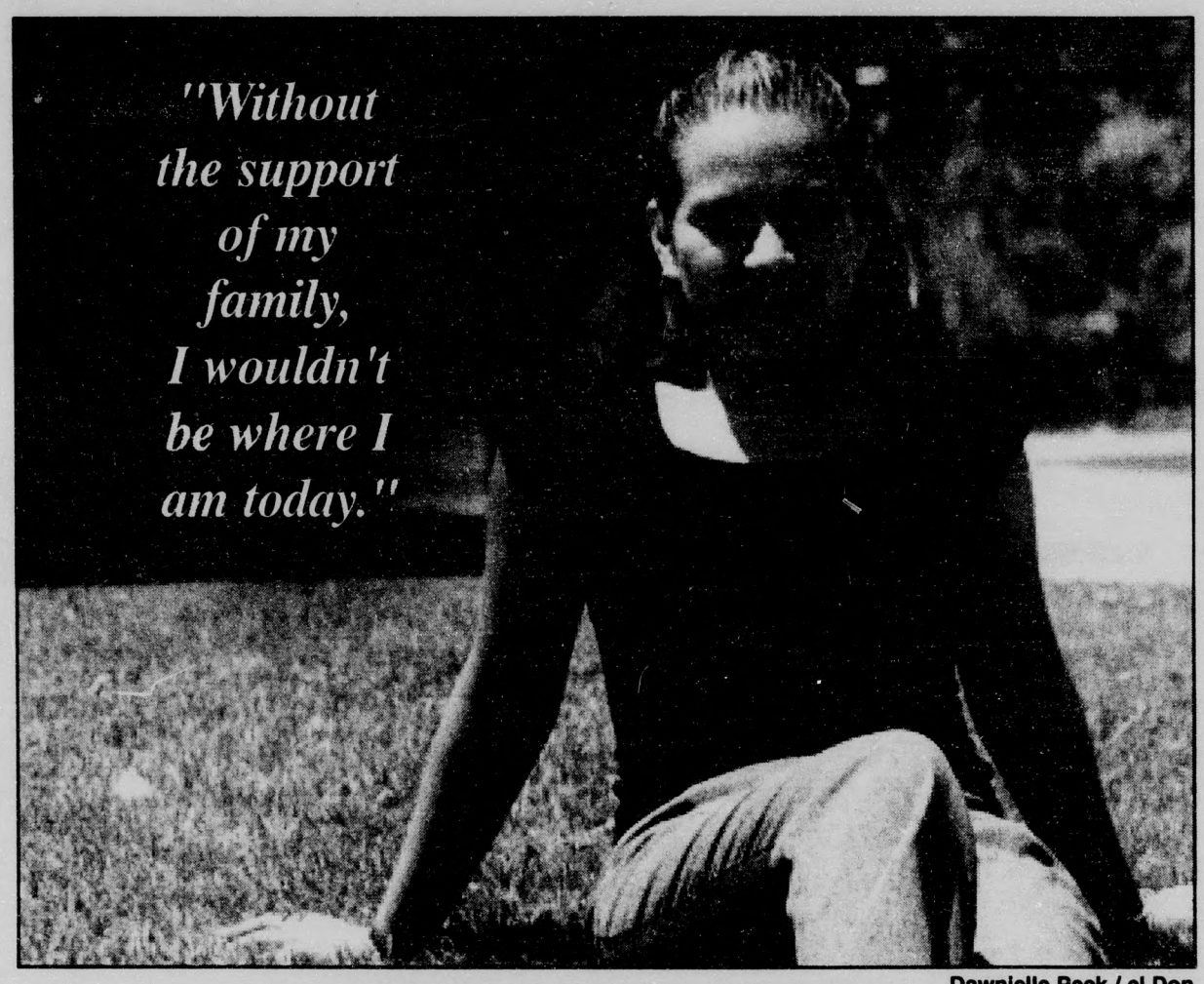
Please see MOVE, Page 2

PROFILE

MAKING THE TIME

INVOLVED: Lili Preciado manages to find the hours for her many activities.

By Alesa Kerr
el Don Views Editor



Dawnielle Peck / el Don

Lili Preciado takes a moment from her hectic schedule to enjoy the day. Preciado was given the President of the Year award from the InterClub Council in 1997.



VITAL STATS

- One of her favorite movies of late is *Life is Beautiful.*
- Names *Othello* by Shakespear as a top reading choice.
- Her favorite food is *mole*, a chicken and rice dish with chili sauce.
- Works as a psychology tutor, an accounting assistant and as a Sunday school teacher.

When people hear of the many activities that student Lili Preciado is involved in, the natural question is "when does she sleep?"

She's an active member of three clubs, commits hours of her time to volunteer work, was chosen as this year's homecoming queen, tutors fellow students, splits around 14 to 16 hours a week between the three jobs she holds and takes 11 units. Add in the fact that up until her teen-age years she spoke no English, and her accomplishments take on a new meaning.

Yet the question still arises, how on earth does she deal with it all? To hear her explanation, it would all seem relatively simple. "I find time in between classes to do everything," she says with a smile.

Preciado and her family came to America in 1990 after her father lost his job in Mexico. Preciado, who was then 13-years-old along with her siblings, were opposed to the move.

"We didn't want to come. In Mexico, we had a house and all our friends were there and all our family was there. We didn't want to leave school in the middle of the year to come here," she said.

Reflecting back, her attitude towards her new residence has changed considerably. "I'm very glad I came to the United States. If I hadn't come here, I probably wouldn't have the education I have now and the opportunities I have to continue my education," she said.

Together, the family worked hard to learn the language of their new home quickly. "It (learning English) was really hard but we got it in one year pretty much," Preciado said.

Preciado graduated from Garden Grove High School, but did not see college in her future.

"I didn't even know I was going to college. I just thought I would graduate from high school and that would be it," she said.

A counselor from her high school told her that although she may not be able to afford a four year university, she should try going to a community college first.

After two years here at Santa Ana College, she graduated in 1997 with honors in psychology. She applied and was accepted to the University of California at Irvine, but couldn't afford the tuition because she was not a citizen. She became a permanent resident last November and was again admitted to UCI. She will enroll in the fall, majoring in psychology and human behavior. Eventually, she plans to obtain her Ph.D. in the subject and work in a mental hospital.

"Since I was young, I've always been interested in psychology," Preciado explains. When I came here, the first class I took was psychology 100 with Dr. Price. She showed me what psychology was really about. I learned to love psychology thanks to her."

Beyond her academic achievements, Preciado has immersed herself in a variety of activities on and off campus. Besides holding the offices of secretary and president over her three years with Alpha Gamma Sigma - the college's honors society - she is also currently a representative to the InterClub Council and serves as treasurer of the choir club.

This year, she was chosen as homecoming queen, an honor she had never dreamt of before. "It was just a complete surprise," she said. "I didn't even want to run for it because I thought it was chosen the same way as it was in high school -- a popularity contest."

Unlike many institutions though, SAC's homecoming queen must meet a GPA requirement and go through an interview process based on community service and overall presentation.

Recently, Lili was selected by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities to intern for the Veteran Affairs Office in Philadelphia this summer.

During her 10 internship she will assist with clinical research and quality control in the medication the patients receive.

Though she leaves SAC next month, she recalls her time here as a great asset to her life.

"I'm very glad I came to SAC. If I have children, I'm going to make them attend a community college before they even think of going to a university."

Move: district accused of playing hide and seek

continued from page 1

Campus, the plan was fiercely opposed by students and faculty until now.

"Faculty is very low key right now," said George Wright, head of SAC's criminal justice department and critic of the move. "The minute the board saw the faculty relax - boom - the office was approved."

To justify the transfer, the board promised that the empty office space would yield eight classrooms - but this proved too expensive and portable classrooms were purchased instead.

Another promise made by administrators, was that no money would be taken from the teacher's retirement fund to finance the venture, but the majority of the funds were borrowed from the account anyway.

"We were told that all that was going to happen was people would be moved from here to there. That was a lie," said Wright. "The argument that classrooms would be created on this campus was a lie. They weren't mistaken or miscalculating. They were lying to us."

> *"We were told that all that was going to happen was people would be moved from here to there. That was a lie. The argument that classrooms would be created on this campus was a lie. They weren't mistaken or miscalculating. They were lying to us."*
>
> **- George Wright**
> **Former Academic Senate President**

Initially, the Board said the edifice would virtually pay for itself because two floors of the building would be leased to cover monthly rent.

Four parties currently rent space including Assemblyman Lou Correa, and both the Black and Hispanic chamber of commerces, yet the income falls below what was projected.

"The income they're getting off the rentals is not what they thought it was going to be," said Rick Manzano, president of SAC's Academic Senate.

All of the funds borrowed from the retirement account will be paid back with interest, said Manzano, but it is considered a loss because the money cannot gain interest.

Because of overhead expenses and additional hires at the district office, both SAC and Santiago Canyon College are functioning with a budget that is reduced to 76 percent of last year's.

Joan Barns, director of district public affairs, said that the headquarters was not created to save money for the district, and so it simply has not.

Some district employees say that a separate headquarters allows the chancellor and other administrators to hide from students, as they have little daily contact with district sights.

"They drive to their little building...pat each other on the back and talk about how great they're doing and don't have to deal with the day to day workings of the district," said Wright.

Pena:

continued from page1

member until November.

The second and third violations were given for failing to post agendas 72 hours in advance of club meetings. But according to ASB bylaws, which Pena himself authored, agendas only have to be prepared in advance - not posted.

According to some, this is a direct reflection of the state of student government at the campus.

"One disadvantage is that the college is still newly formed," said Loretta Jordan, director of student services at SCC. "ASB is one year old and it is still not fully prepared, it's going through the developmental processes."

Because of the loophole, Lopez's accusation is unfounded.

In the fourth violation, an incident of mistaken identity was the case. A student was found taking documents out of ASB mailboxes, and was mistaken by Pena for an SDC member.

"He tried and convicted us, all in one day, just like that," said Cecilia Viveros, the club's secretary.

SDC quickly responded to all of Pena's accusations and asked for an apology, but Pena has refused to apologize and stands by his accusations.

"If people didn't bring the violations to my attention, I wouldn't have done anything," Pena said. "I offered to look their case over with Bob Deegan (vice president of student services), but they didn't want to, they made it personal," Pena said.

But not everyone feels Pena is getting a fair deal and many say the conflict arose long before.

"This whole thing is about how they can't get along," said Ryan Brush, an assistant to the ASB adivser. "It's so pathetically childish."

On April 20, SDC sent a memo to the ASB senate stating that Pena should resign or face impeachment. After Pena refused resignation, the senate impeached the president the following day, but rescinded their vote, calling it a hasty decision.

SCC senate held a second impeachment hearing May 5. The hearing should have been declared invalid, because the posted agenda did not stipulate that the impeachment would be discussed in closed session, as is mandatory according to state meeting laws.

It was held despite protest from an *el Don* reporter and Pena was impeached.

Pena, accused of abusing his presidential powers, will remain active as president until his case goes to trial where the court will decide to reinstate or remove him from office.

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- Two semesters or longer at either Santiago Canyon College or Santa Ana College with at least 12 units completed.

Duties and Responsibilities of the RSCCD Student Trustee shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- Attend one ASGSAC and one ASBSCC Executive Cabinet meeting per month.
- Attendance at one ASGSAC and one ASBSCC senate meeting per month in order to brief senate on current issues.
- Act as the primary liaison between the RSCCD Board of Trustees and the Associated Students of Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College.
- Fulfill all duties and responsibilities of a Student Trustee as stated in the California Education Code and the RSCCD Board of Trustees Policies.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE IN THE ACTIVITIES OFFICE OF SANTA ANA OR SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1999.



Mercenary Rick O'Connell (Brendan Fraser) and librarian Evelyn (Rachel Weisz) come face - to face with a 3,000 - year- old mummy.

Photos courtesy Universal Pictures

DEAD MAN WALKING

MOVIE REVIEW: Creators lose their focus on *The Mummy* when they try to combine comedy with horror.

By J.P. Chabot
el Don Staff Writer

The Mummy

Starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz

Rating: 3.5 (out of five)

Blockbusters, by nature, try to appeal to as many as possible by providing something for everyone. Universal Pictures' pre-summer release *The Mummy* tries so hard to appeal to everyone that, while enjoyable, it spreads itself thin.

Written and directed by Stephen Sommers, the film features reliable stock characters that have been carefully designed to fit into the "something for everybody" formula.

The movie is less of a remake than it is a tribute to the original 1932 *Mummy* and its sequels, *The Mummy's Hand* (1942), *The Mummy's Tomb* (1942), *The Mummy's Ghost* (1944) and *The Mummy's Curse* (1945). What it's celebrating is not clear, since virtually none of the suspenseful chemistry seen in the original is evident.

The basic premise is that a tough, heroic man (Brendan Fraser) is rescued from certain death by a quirky, clutzy librarian (Rachel Weisz) in exchange for him taking her to Hamunaptra, the legendary secret burial place of lost treasure in Egypt.

Accompanied by her goofy brother and a bunch of rival American treasure hunters, the group unearths and revives the 3,000-year-old mummified corpse of Imhotep, an evil Egyptian magician put under a curse and buried alive for killing the Pharaoh of Egypt.

Why Imhotep is put under this curse is uncertain, since it also endows him with superhuman powers, such as turning into sand and calling down the 10 plagues of Egypt. Also among these powers is the ability to stretch his mouth out to more than twice its size - an unsettling effect hrough-out the film employed for pure shock value.

While the film's trailers revealed much of the movie's special effects, they conceal the fact that about 40 percent of *The Mummy* is a self-deprecating comedy. Although funny much of the time - Fraser often remarks after an ominous gust of wind, "That happens a lot around here" - it dilutes the otherwise horrifying parts of the movie, leaving an overall neutral experience.

Worse still are the parts when a joke is repeated; Fraser unsuccessfully attempts to return Imhotep's gaping-jawed death-howl, then tries again on some other mummies with no improved results.

Special effects are not as extensive as the trailers promised either. While hordes of ravenous insects and warrior mummies abound, they are basically the only creative visuals in the entire film. Imhotep himself is at first impressive - a grotesque computer-generated skeleton - but as he goes about draining the life-force from those who opened his tomb, he becomes more and more human and thus less expensive to show on-screen. Besides this, none of the effects are particularly breathtaking or innovative. Once Imhotep has fully regener-ated into a smooth-skinned, bald-headed



An evil mummy dressed in his street disguise looks for the defilers of his tomb.

Egyptian priest, his ability to unhinge his jaws looks more silly than threatening.

It would have been nice if Sommers had decided to make either a horrifying movie based more closely upon the 1932 classic, or had just stuck with the comic approach all the way. The original was better at scaring people than this ever will be, and *Abbot and Costello Meet the Mummy* was funnier.

As it is, this movie never fully revives the feel of the old movie or energizes itself with enough comedy, leaving it best for a younger crowd. It's likely that in a few weeks, like Imhotep, this movie will be buried and forgotten.

Powerful play speaks to all women

THEATRE: Mini-dramas center on Latina issues ranging from rape to family.

By Theresa M. Hudzinski
el Don Staff Writer

Tucked away in Santa Ana College's Phillips Hall Little Theatre is a complex, diverse and powerful story of empowerment, not only for the Latina woman, but for all women.

Confessions of Women from East L.A. which continues its run May 14 through the 16, was written by the playwright Josefina Lopez who won an Emmy for her first play *Simply Maria or the American Dream*. Out of frustration over the lack of Latina voices in the theater, Lopez wrote *Confessions*. "Latina women have always been categorized as virgins, mothers, and whores in plays, movies and television. I don't like that because I am none of them. I am a combination of all of them." Lopez wrote.

Directed by Sheryl Donchey the play, which opened April 29th, is set in various parts of East L.A. Each woman portrayed is a mixture of the playwright and her mother at different stages in their lives.

Confessions of Women from East L.A.

- Written by Josefina Lopez
- Directed by Sheryl Donchey
- Ticket Prices: $8 general admission, $6 students/ staff/seniors/children
- For more information, call (714) 564-5666

Elvira Jimenez begins the nine monologues as Dr. Marquez-Bernstein, the self-motivator trying to spark the desire and the confidence in Latina high school students. She emphasizes that they can be anything, but they have to do it for themselves.

The second scene takes place in a church where Dona Concepcion (Ana Vargas-Jorge) reveals to her priest that she's not sad her husband who has given her AIDS has died. In fact, the session becomes more of her coming out as a lesbian and the anger she has because she will never find her true love.

Rape, insecurity and abuse fall into the next scene, with Griselda DeSantos portraying Lolita Corazon. Corazon battles herself over leaving her abusive boyfriend, her need to find love elsewhere and a rape she can't get over.

Set in a Japanese restaurant, Yoko Martinez (Cynthia Vargas) is desperately trying to get a job, but not for the money. Martinez wants to find a man who is not like her abusive father.

Also included in the play are the stories of Roxie (Carla Teran) who embraces her sexuality, Tiffany (Michelle Marie) who is beginning to embrace her culture that she has been desensitized to, and Dona Florinda (Maria Carlota Maldonado) who finds family and comfort by watching *telenovelas*.

The final scene brings the women together in a statement of the struggle of becoming what a U.S. citizen "should" be.

Jimenez stresses that common theme throughout each monologue of the play is empowerment, but not just for Latinas. "Ultimately no one can make you happy but yourself. You can't depend on a man. You need to be self-reliant," she said.

But she also notes that the play is extremely poignant for Latinas because in a world that is just beginning to accept women and is even slower to accept minorities, it is harder still for many to welcome women minorities.

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Fury of the force spurs anticipation for fans

HYPE: A 17-year-old wins the distinction of being first in line for new *Star Wars* movie.

By Randy Scott
el Don Staff Writer

The lines began to form over a month ago. Young men (and a few women) from many walks of life have converged to several locations to wait. What are they waiting for you ask? A movie.

Not just any movie though. *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace,* is perhaps the most anticipated motion picture of all time.

From toys, to soundtracks, to posters, costumes and games, the flood of *Star Wars* products have begun in preparation for the release of the film next week on May 19.

But only one person can say they were first in line for the motion picture. That honor belongs to Daniel Alter, a 17 year old from Tarzana who found his 15 minutes of fame by sitting outside of the Mann Westwood Village Theater in Hollywood.

"I'm here because I'm young and I want to be a film maker," Alter said. "It's also cool to be a part of history."

Alter graduated high school a year early and has taken this year off of school in part to be involved in this project.

"I wanted to take a vacation. Luckily my year off came at the same time as the movie," he said.

It was more than luck. Alter has been planning this wait since 1996, when the film was first announced. And contrary to what it seems like, a great deal of planning has taken place.

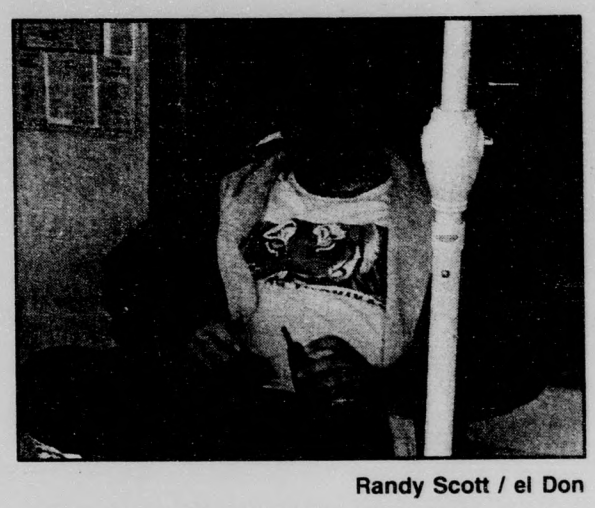
"We have over 150 people in our group," Alter said. "We have set schedules because we can't spend all our time here. But I'm here as much as possible."

By the time the film opens, Alter will have spent over 600 hours in line. A cell phone helps to organize the group while television, radio, and even a computer have been brought down to boost morale. A restaurant next to the theatre has provided the electrical power.

"People have been very supportive, especially the businesses around here," Alter said.

Not everyone understands the fan's motives. The group endures daily insults and pranks from many passers by who consider those in line foolish.

"I guess some people are very cynical about being touched by something," Alter said. "I don't have a wife, or kids, and I'm still young. It's not like I've left a life behind to do this. They don't know what it's like to be passionate."



David Alter does what he's been doing for months - waiting. Alter estimates that he will have spent over 600 hours in line by the time he sees *The Phantom Menance.*

Randy Scott / el Don

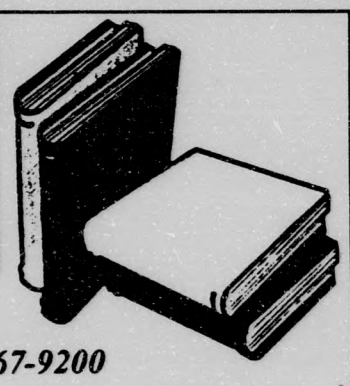
Alter is not the typical *Star Wars* fanatic. He didn't collect the toys as a kid. In fact, his favorite movies are *E.T.* and *Raiders of the Lost Arc*. His biggest inspiration for being here is his desire to become a film maker himself.

"George Lucas has been a big influence in my life," Alter said. "And this is how I am paying respect to him."

With the release a week away, more lines have formed across the country. But none of those people can say they were first.

"It's something I can tell my grandkids about. I can say 'hey, I was the first in line for *Episode I*' and no one can take that away," Alter said.

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Our VIEWS

The Taj Mahal of Santa Ana

Often referred to as the "Taj Mahal of Santa Ana" the newly relocated district office is a waste of money and a nuisance to staff and students.

In October, various district departments and the Chancellor's office (previously located in Santa Ana College's administration building) moved to a newly-renovated office near the 5 freeway in Santa Ana.

The reasons for the move were to provide space for a growing SAC population and to provide unbiased support for Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges.

Both are weak excuses to mask the real reason for the transfer - to allow our Chancellor and other administrators to hide from both campuses.

Vacant offices in the administration building were to be used for classrooms. This proved to be too expensive, however, and small portables were purchased instead. Hardly what was promised.

Over $4 million was "borrowed" from district retiree benefit reserve funds, to purchase the four-story building. That also conflicts with promises that no money would be taken from retiree funds.

The result is an office that is not only hard to find, but is also a gauntlet of cubicle mazes with receptionists guarding every turn. Isn't the role of administrators to be accessable to students?

SAC houses the bulk of the district student population and the majority would have been better served by leaving the offices where they were.

If the commute to the SAC campus was such a problem for SCC students and staff, the move makes little sense. The district office is not much further away.

Some say that it is important to have the office on "neutral ground" so neither SAC or SCC feels disenfranchised.

It's an understandable argument, but not one that warrants spending $4.3 million on unnecessary office space.

The further school officials get from us, the less student input (and complaints) they receive.

At the core of any administrator's job description is to have the students' best interest at heart.

It's a shame that we are being abandoned for a great view of the freeway and shiny new office furniture.

Mailbox Policy

The el Don encourages expression of all views. Letters should be brief and to the point. All letters should include student ID number and may be edited for length and clarity. Letters to el Don may be delivered to room C-201, or mailed to SAC el Don, Mailbox, 17th at Bristol streets, Santa Ana, CA 92706. Include a phone number where you may be reached. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of SAC. Opinions with a byline are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of el Don or Santa Ana College. El Don reserves the right to refuse advertising and does not necessarily subscribe to the views of the advertisers. For el Don advertising rates and information, contact Debi Carr at (714)564-5617. FAX 564-0821



Ismael Arellano / el Don

My VIEW

Cinco de Mayo more than simply cervezas and salsa

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Editor in Chief

Cinco de Mayo. Mexican Independence Day. For some, these terms are interchangeable. And for most, they conjure images of smiling mariachis and attractive brown-eyed senoritas in traditional Mexican garb.

As with most holidays in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has become commercialized and misunderstood.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not Mexican Independence Day. That event falls on Sept. 16 and celebrates Mexico's liberation from more than 300 years of gripping Spanish rule.

Under Spanish occupation, millions of indigenous peoples who inhabited the land were simply slaughtered under the guise of civilizing the "New World."

Mexican politics were also permanently changed, making it easier for corrupt officials to openly leech off their subjects - a problem that still plagues Latin America.

Cinco de Mayo actually came after Mexican independence from Spain.

France occupied Mexico in the late 1800s, in an attempt to collect on war debts after the Mexican-American War.

The holiday commemorates the *Batalla de Puebla* (Battle at Puebla) where a rag-tag underdog Mexican Army defeated prim and primped French forces.

France ultimately left its mark on the country, as lavish fountains and statues still adorn Mexico City, and French provincial furniture can be found in thousands of living rooms across the country.

Although widely celebrated in the Southwestern United States, Cinco de Mayo is a lesser holiday in Mexico.

The French invasion is seen as a trivial event, in contrast to other historic upsets and some Mexicans don't celebrate it at all.

That's where Chicanos come in. At the end of the 1960s, the Chicano movement in the states was in full swing.

Leaders were looking for a holiday where they could also celebrate their heritage. Thus, Cinco de Mayo was born.

Mexican Independence Day was already celebrated in Latino communities across the country and Cinco de Mayo soon gained popularity.

Initiators hoped to educate people on their Mexican heritage, which is often lost as immigrants fall into America's vast melting pot.

Sadly, it has become little more than an excuse to party and drink margaritas.

Restaurants perpetuate the hype in hopes of attracting young patrons who will open their wallets a little more, because of the "ethnic" holiday.

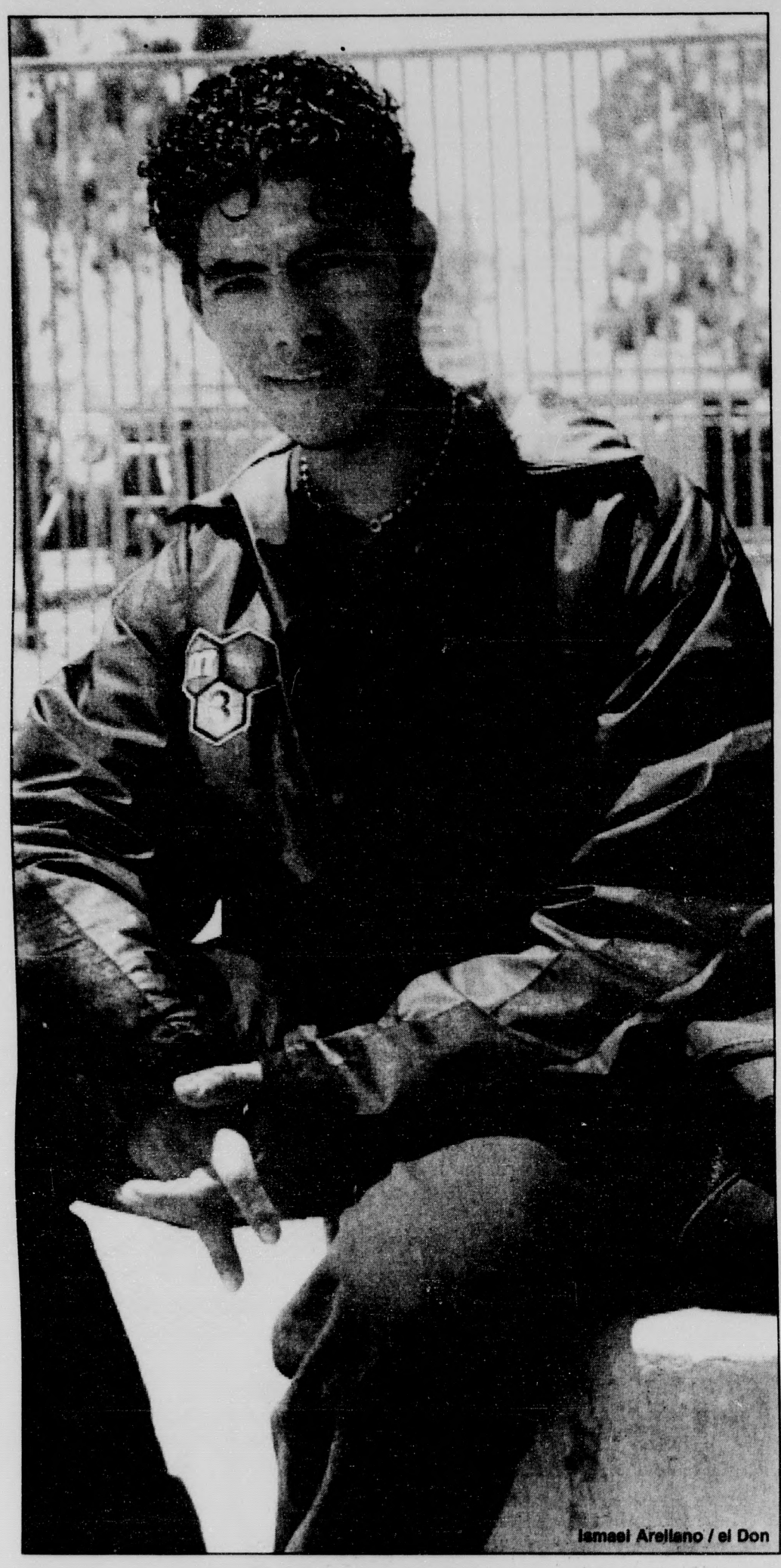
The demise of Cinco de Mayo as an educational event parallels an old joke by comedian Paul Rodriguez. "The decade of the Hispanic (the 80s)... turned out to be a weekend sponsored by Coors," he said.

And it seems that the holiday is heading in the same direction. With beer companies and Mexican eateries grasping for impressionable consumers, the true meaning behind Cinco de Mayo becomes clouded.

As the Mexican population in the United States increases, cultural education must increase also. If not, we should ceases these empty celebrations that only perpetuate Mexican stereotypes.

People need to know why they celebrate Cinco de Mayo and realize that by remaining ignorant, they are not doing justice to themselves or Latino society.

Sports



Ismael Arellano / el Don

Water Boy

William Serrano remains determined as he adjusts to life in a new country

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Editor in Chief

Some describe William Serrano as a dedicated swimmer. Others say he's a powerful guitarist and eloquent song writer. Still others think of him as a warm, generous international student.

But whatever people say - they can't call him ordinary.

He was born in Venezuela in 1980 and from a young age developed numerous talents that transcend international boundaries.

"When I was a child I studied karate and swimming. Then I became interested in music and composing and just kept on learning," he said.

In junior high school, Serrano polished his swimming strokes daily after finishing his studies. His endurance paid off, when he qualified for the Venezuelan junior nationals.

"I've always felt comfortable in the water - it must have something to do with me being an Aquarius," he said, grinning.

Although this proved to be the pinnacle of his swimming career, he joined the Santa Ana College swimming team this semester to sharpen his dulled aquatic skills.

The season, however, was disappointing to Serrano.

"Everyone already had their positions on the team and practiced together even before I came along," he said. "I haven't been active for about four years - so it was hard to get used to." Still, he will continue to practice.

Determination is a common theme in his life, as he has also overcome many challenges.

At the age of 17, he left Venezuela and journeyed solo to the United States in pursuit of higher education. Serrano, a recent high school graduate, wanted to major in computer information systems and looked to the California school system for help.

"Since my uncle and aunt lived in Santa Ana, I decided to follow them," he said. "But I honestly don't feel like I find myself here. I feel kind of lost."

Above all, he misses the tight knit family back home that he communicates with regularly. "It's hard because I'm basically alone," he said. "The hardest part is having to spend my birthday by myself."

The 20-year-old occupies his free time by being active in campus organizations such as the International Students Association. Serrano represents Latin America in the group's activities and also represents ISA at the InterClub Council.

"All the events keep me busy," he said, "and also help me to meet people and share my feelings and ideas with others. They may not always agree with me, but it teaches me to love everyone just as they are."

Not only does Serrano keep busy with school activities, he is also an avid guitar player and song writer.

He has played in numerous bands in both Venezuela and the U.S. specializing in alternative tunes. His favorite bands include Metallica, the Eagles, and Van Halen.

"Through music I can express all that I feel. Sometimes I just get lost in the rhythms and beat," he said.

Serrano will next transfer to Dade Community College in Florida, and hopes to major in computer information systems and minor in music at the university level. He would also like to return to Venezuela immediately after finishing school to open his own business.

"I'm trying to understand American culture more," he said. "But in my opinion nothing compares to home."

THE DON REPORT



Golf reaches regional championships

Santa Ana College's golf team rose above losing one of their top golfers this season and ended with an impressive 14-4 record.

Of the nine teams in the Orange Empire Conference, the Dons were one of two teams that made it to the So Cal Regional Championships in Bakersfield. Though they did not qualify to move on to the state championships, they finished sixth in all of Southern California. "We were close," Coach Dick Gorrie said of last weekend's results.

One team member, Steve Bendt, was one of four So Cal players chosen to compete for the state championships as an individual medalist. Bendt competes May 10, at the Yolo Country Club in Sacramento.

Gorrie hopes to hold an end-of-the-year banquet for his players, though a date has not been set.

"We had a good record and a good year," Gorrie said. *-Dawnielle Peck*

The Facts

Who: Dons' golf member, Steve Bendt competes for the state championships as an individual medalist

When: May 10

Where: The Yolo Country Club in Sacramento



Fastpitch team fails to win playoff berth

The Lady Dons finished up their regular season with a 8-4 win Monday over the Orange Coast College Lady Pirates.

Freshman Erica Hammontree pitched a shutout her first two innings of the season. Both sophomores Erika Pilkington (6-11) and Sara Vaughn (3-1), who went 3 for 5 from the mound, helped to hold back OCC at the plate.

Sophomore Marsha Zazuetta had two assists from the field, one at home plate and one at first base and went one for two at bat.

The Dons season ended with a victory but they fell short of a playoff berth placing fifth in Orange Empire Conference with a 9-12 record and an overall record of 19-25-3. Cypress finished first with a 20-1 record followed by Riverside (15-6) and Fullerton (15-6).

Sara Vaughn finished 11th in the conference for batting with an .356 average, Jennifer Weiss finished with a .273 average and Rachelle Ngayan ended up with a .268 average from the plate. *- Mike Ziobrowski*

The Facts

Who: The fastpitch team's end-of-the-year banquet

When: No date is set, but tentative plans are for the end of June

Where: No location has been set



New women's volleyball coach announced

Kathy Farina has stepped down from her position as Santa Ana College's women's volleyball coach. The team had a rocky fall season, ending with an overall record of 4-29. Replacing Farina after her two seasons at SAC is her assistant coach, Jennifer Adeva.

Besides her experience with the Dons, Adeva has coached for seven years at the junior and club level.

A scholarship volleyball player herself, Adeva received her B.S. degree from the California State University at Fullerton and hopes to receive her Master's degree from Azusa Pacific University this July.

- Dawnielle Peck

The Facts

Who: Jennifer Adeva has been hired as the women's volleyball coach to replace Kathy Farina

When: Adeva assumes her position during the fall 1999 season

Where: Santa Ana College

•RETRACTION:

In the April 26 issue of *el Don*, football coach Dave Ogas was incorrectly identified as the Dons ex-football coach.

We apologize for the error.